



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Longest working Los Angeles County Employee Honored By Board of Supervisors

The County's longest serving employee was recognized by the Board of Supervisors Tuesday, which lauded Leophis Hester, a licensed vocational nurse at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center for a stunning 60 years of continuous service to Los Angeles County residents. Hester's tenure at Harbor-UCLA makes her the longest working employee of more than 100,000 people working for the County today.

"Six decades of service is truly remarkable," said Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, who presented a certificate of commendation to Ms. Hester. "We salute Ms. Hester not only for the dedicated service she has provided and continues to provide, but also for the extraordinary example and inspiration she has provided to generations of young people."

Known to her colleagues at Harbor-UCLA as "Queen Leophis," Hester is a true role model for her commitment to more than just working, but to providing high-quality patient care.

"Leophis Hester has worked tirelessly for our patients for 60 years," said Harbor-

UCLA Chief Nursing Officer Peggy Nazarey. "Her joyous spirit to care for our patients with professionalism and integrity is recognized today with much gratitude for her years of service."

At 21 year's old, Hester began her career as a nursing attendant at Harbor General Hospital, now known as Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, when she was hired in 1952. She later became a neurology technician before becoming a licensed vocational nurse at the hospital, a position she has held since 1954.

As a licensed vocational nurse Hester checks vital signs such as blood pressure, temperature, respiration, and pulse, performs routine laboratory exams, and administers immunization injections. The 81-year-old LVN not only has no plans to retire but says it's her intention to continue her career for another 20 years.

At the Board meeting, Ms. Hester expressed her thanks to the Board for recognizing her.

"I am honored and humbled," said Hester. "I am overwhelmed with excitement."

Hester was born in Warren, Arkansas. She moved to San Pedro in 1943. She is a graduate of San Pedro High School and received her nursing license from Los Angeles Harbor College.

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